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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /085 W
----------071028Z 101611 /16
R 070955Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6590
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0120

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, MILI, SF
SUBJECT: MOVE OF NAVAL ATTACHE TO PRETORIA

1. WE HAVE BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY DFA NOTE OF DECEMBER 21 THAT SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL HEADQUARTERS IS TO MOVE FROM CAPE TOWN TO PRETORIA EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 1977. THE OPERATIVE PART OF THE NOTE STATES: "ON THIS ACCOUNT, IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR THE NAVAL ATTACHES AT PRESENT RESIDENT IN THE CAPE TO LIKEWISE MOVE TO PRETORIA. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE NECESSARY STEPS COULD BE TAKEN BY THE EMBASSY FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE AND THE ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PRETORIA." THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE EMBASSIES, THE ONLY OTHER MISSIONS WITH NAVAL ATTACHES IN CAPE TOWN, HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR NOTES.

2. IN EARLIER INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, WE AND THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S STAFF HAVE HAD WITH SA AUTHORITIES, IT HAS BEEN EVIDENT THAT THE SAG WILL INSIST ON THE MOVE OF NAVAL ATTACHE OFFICES FROM CAPE TOWN TO PRETORIA. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO LEAVE THE ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE IN CAPE TOWN, EVEN THOUGH THE NOTE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES HIM IN THE MOVE TO PRETORIA. SA NAVAL INTELLIGENCE, HERETOFORE AN CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT CONTACT FOR THE NAVAL ATTACHE, WILL REMAIN IN CAPE TOWN FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST. SA'S PRINCIPAL NAVAL FACILITY IS AT SIMONSTOWN ADJACENT TO CAPE TOWN. ATTACHES REGARD MONITORING OF MERCHANT SHIP TRAFFICE OF SOME IMPORTANCE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN ATTACHE ON THE SPOT TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACT AND GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS HE POSSIBLY CAN.

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3. THE DEPARTMENT WILL, OF COURSE, WISH TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE NAVY AND DOD. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO SEEK SAG AGREEMENT TO MAINTAINING THE ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE IN CAPE TOWN. IN APPROACHING THE SAG, WE WOULD STRESS THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING AT HAND THE SERVICES OF A MILITARY ADVISOR DURING THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD THE EMBASSY IS AT THE CAPE EACH YEAR.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION SO WE MAY PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MOVE, THE LOCATION OF HOUSING IN PRETORIA, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION OF NAVAL ATTACHE STAFF DEPENDENT CHILDREN TO PRETORIA AREA SCHOOLS WHOSE ACADEMIC YEAR COMMENCES THE END OF JANUARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, NAVAL ATTACHES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR00120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-1172
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770171/aaaackeq.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd9030dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3644256
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVE OF NAVAL ATTACHE TO PRETORIA
TAGS: MORG, MILI, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd9030dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009